

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): KATO, et al.

Filed: April 19, 2000

For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING
METHOD THEREFOR



SECOND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97 AND §1.98

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

April 19, 2000

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicants' duty of disclosure, enclosed please find a List, on a form substantially equivalent to Form PTO-1449 of documents cited in an Office Action in connection with a Japanese patent application corresponding to prior application Serial No. 09/461,432, filed December 16, 1999.

The cited documents were submitted in prior application Serial No. 09/461,432, filed December 16, 1999, upon which priority has been claimed under 35 USC 120 in the present application. Accordingly, copies of these cited documents are not enclosed herewith. See 37 CFR 1.98(d).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted concurrently with the filing of the present application. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.97 are satisfied.

To the extent that the enclosed documents are not in English, it is respectfully submitted that the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3) are satisfied by the previously submitted abstracts of various of the documents not in

English, partial English translations of various of the documents not in English, and the following comments. In addition, enclosed is a full English translation of JP No. Sho 63-153270.

JP Hei 2-61064 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 4,969,790, and relates to a merry-go-round system.

No. JP Hei 1-310553 relates to a single chamber.

No. JP 1-251734 relates to a vacuum cassette.

No. JP Sho 62-44571 relates to an ion implantor.

No. JP Sho 62-50463 relates to a sputtering device; and JP Hei 2-106037 relates to a single chamber device. JP No. Sho 57-29577 relates to a sputtering device.

In "*Semiconductor Equipment Association of Japan*", a load lock chamber is defined.

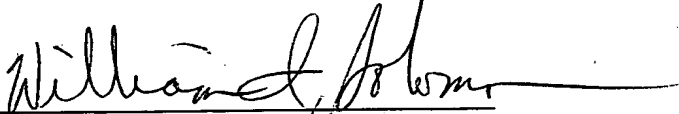
In view of all the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98 have been satisfied, in connection with the listed documents and presently submitted documents. Accordingly, consideration of these documents, upon examination of the above-identified application, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No.

01-2135 (Case No. 503.30414V16) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William I. Solomon", written over a horizontal line.

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